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DANIEL J. STANGER
MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR, P.C.
1800 DIAGONAL ROAD, SUITE 370
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

MAILED

AUG 12 2003

**DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600**

In re Application of
M. Mori et al
Serial No. 09/506,808
Filed February 18, 2000
For: AUTOMATIC AUCTION METHOD

DECISION ON PETITION
FILED UNDER 37 CFR 1.181

This is a decision on the Petition under 37 CFR 1.181 filed May 8, 2003,
which requests withdrawal of the holding of abandonment.

The petition is GRANTED as indicated below.

A review of the file history reveals that the Office issued a final Office
action rejection on May 21, 2001. Applicant subsequently filed a Notice of
Appeal with a two month extension of time on October 22, 2001. Applicant
then filed a timely amendment in response to the final Office action on
December 26, 2001.

A Notice of Abandonment was mailed on March 24, 2003 stating that the
reply received on December 26, 2001 was not timely. This is incorrect.
Both December 24, 2001 and December 25, 2001 were Federal
Government holidays making December 26, 2001 the next succeeding
day that was not a Saturday, Sunday or Federal holiday. Thus, the reply
date of December 26, 2001 was timely.

A further review of the file history shows that a terminal disclaimer was
filed on August 21, 2002 and an advisory action was mailed by the Office
on February 24, 2003. The terminal disclaimer has not been entered into
the file history, and the advisory action did not address the timely filed
amendment of December 26, 2001.

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The application is being returned to the examiner for consideration of the amendment filed on December 26, 2001 and for consideration of the terminal disclaimer filed on August 21, 2003.

Inquiries related to this decision may be directed to Supervisory Patent Examiner Wynn Coggins at (703) 308-1344.



John J. Love, Director
Patent Technology Center 3600
(703) 308-1020
FAX (703) 306-4597

WC: 07/25/03